

Daphne.Duke

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From: Melissa.Purvis
Sent: Monday, July 01, 2013 10:43 AM
To: Daphne.Duke
Subject: FW: In response to the Business Community - Docket No. 2013-59-E

From: Seth Powell [<mailto:seth.e.powell@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 3:22 PM
To: PSC_Commissioner.Mitchell; PSC_Commissioner.Hamilton; PSC_Commissioner.Fleming; PSC_Commissioner.Whitfield; PSC_Commissioner.Hall
Subject: In response to the Business Community - Docket No. 2013-59-E

Hello,

Thank you for taking time to consider all arguments in relation to the Duke Energy rate increase request. The public hearings on the matter have allowed for a nearly unanimous objection to the request.

There were a few people, however, that made arguments in favor of the motion, and I wish to address the most common of these sentiments.

It is clear that the Southeast currently enjoys lower electricity rates than many parts of the country. This allows us to compete to bring new businesses and industries to South Carolina and the Upstate in particular, as organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce have pointed out. But this does not, in any way, indicate that we should raise electricity rates, as was suggested by the CoC and others.

The logic is non-sensical: Our low rates make us competitive, so we should raise rates and become less competitive?

South Carolina has low electricity rates because we generate the electricity here and because we are a low-income state. Raising our rates will not change the fact that we are a low-income state, it will just put more of a strain on low-income families.

If the business community is convinced that higher electricity rates would be a benefit to them, then by all means raise their rates. But leave residential rates stable - that's what ordinary residents are asking for.

Regards,

Seth E. Powell
President, Greenville County Taxpayers Association

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